

REMARKS

The Amendments

Applicants have amended the specification and claim 46 to insert SEQ ID NO identifiers in compliance with the requirements set forth in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.821 through 1.825. Applicants have also amended the specification to correct typographical errors.

The June 23, 2008 Office Action contains a Notice to Comply with Requirements for Patent Applications Containing Nucleotide Sequence and/or Amino Acid Sequence Disclosures (“Notice to Comply”). Pursuant to the Notice to Comply, Applicants submit concurrently herewith an initial paper Sequence Listing. Applicants amend the specification to insert the paper copy of the Sequence Listing (pages 1-2) submitted herewith at the end of the specification, after the Abstract. Please enter the computer readable form (CRF) copy of the Sequence Listing enclosed herewith into the application. Applicants also submit concurrently herewith a Statement that the content of the paper and computer readable copies are the same and include no new matter, as required by 1.821(f) and 1.821(g).

No new matter is introduced by the amendments. Applicants request entry of the amendments and consideration and allowance of the claims.

The Restriction Requirement

The Examiner has required restriction of this application under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372 to one of the following groups:

- I. Claims 46-61, drawn to a double-stranded RNA (siRNA) molecule, and to compositions thereof; and

II. Claims 62-64, drawn to a method for reducing angiogenesis, tumor growth, and VEGF protein levels comprising administering the siRNA of claim 46 or compositions of claims 47, 49, or 52.

The Examiner asserts that the inventions listed as Groups I and II do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 because, under PCT Rule 13.2, they lack the same or corresponding special technical features. Applicants note that the Examiner has relied on U.S. Patent 7,148,342 (U.S. Provisional Application 60/398,417) for the lack of unity between Groups I and II. Applicants stand ready to swear behind U.S. Provisional Application 60/398,417, if necessary.

The Examiner has acknowledged Applicants' election the claims of Group I (claims 46-61) for initial substantive examination. The Examiner has noted that claims 62-64 are withdrawn from further consideration and that claims 46-61 are under consideration (Office Action, p.3). Applicants made this election expressly without waiver of their right to file for and to obtain claims directed to the non-elected subject matter in continuing applications claiming priority and benefit herefrom, or, subject to allowance of the product claims, to rejoin the process claims depending from or otherwise including all the limitations of the allowable product claims in this application.

Sequence Compliance – Notice to Comply

The Examiner states that the application fails to comply with the requirements set forth in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.821 through 1.825. Applicants have amended the specification and the claims to insert SEQ ID NO identifiers in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.821(d). Pursuant to the Notice to Comply, Applicants also submit herewith initial paper and CRF copies of the sequence

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listing, an amendment requesting the entry of the sequence listing into the specification (see above), and a statement that the content of the paper and computer readable copies are the same and include no new matter, as required by 1.821(f) and 1.821(g). Applicants believe that the application now complies with the requirements set forth in 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.821 through 1.825 and is in condition for examination.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants request favorable consideration of the application and early allowance of the pending claims. To that end, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss any issue pertaining to this reply.

Respectfully submitted,



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